1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Rajasthan	1	1	2	22	11	33
17.	Tamil Nadu	2	–	2	16	5	21
18.	Uttar Pradesh	6	–	6	53	17	70
19.	West Bengal	3	–	3	38	12	50
	Total	40	10	50	371	129	500

Statement-V

Norms For Opening Post Offices

1. **Norms for opening of New Branch Post Office**

1.1 **Population**

(a) *In Normal Areas :*

3000 population in a group villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) *In the hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas :*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 **Distance :**

(a) *In Normal Areas :*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas :*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distnace limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases whrere such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 **Anticipated Income :**

(a) *In Normal areas .*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3% of cost.

(b) *In hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas :*

the minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. **Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices :**

2.1 **In Rural Areas :**

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 **In Urban Areas :**

2.2.1 In Urban areas, the Post Office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 km. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Areas should have a minimum of 7 Postman's beats.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Broadcasting Sector

*35. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to impose restrictions on the functioning of Electronic media;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to encourage foreign investment in broadcasting sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Prasarbharti Bill is likely to be passed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government have introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in Lok Sabha on 16.5.97, which, inter alia, provides for regulation and licensing of Direct-to-Home television services. The bill is currently under consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. With a view to prevent pre-emption of the broadcasting law by foreign entitles, as may be passed by the Parliament in this regard, Ministry of Telecommunication, Department of Telecom have issued a notification dated 16.7.97 prohibiting establishment. maintenance, operation and possession of equipments capable of receiving signals above the frequency band of 4800 MHz.

(c) and (d) Government have already introduced the Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament which addresses the issue regarding foreign investment in broadcasting sector. The Bill is at present under the consideration of Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(e) The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 will come into effect from 15th of September, 1997. A Notification in this regard has been issued on 22.07.1997.

Development on Solar Energy

*36. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the use of solar energy more people-oriented and effective;

(b) if so, the detils thereof; and

(c) the amount of central grants sanctioned for the development of solar energy during 1997-98, state-wise with particular reference to Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) A number of measures have been taken to promote the wide-spread use of solar energy devices and systems in the country. Among them are :

(i) Providing subsidies to users of solar photovoltaic systems such as solar lanterns, rural domestic lights, village street lights, small rural power plants and water pumps.

(ii) Providing soft loan to users of solar thermal systems such as solar water heaters, dryers and solar stills through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Soft loans are also available to individual users of solar water heating systems through the Canara Bank and the Union Bank to India in several cities.

(iii) Providing interest-free loans to the bulk users and inter-mediaries of solar cookers through IREDA and to individual users through the Canara Bank and the Union Bank of India.

(iv) Establishment of solar shops in major cities in order to make solar products easily available to users.

(v) Provision of 100% depreciation to commercial organisations for income tax purposes, exemption from excise duties, exemption from sales tax in several states and concessional rates of custom duty on imported materials.

(vi) Supporting training programmes, demonstrations and publicity activities.

(c) An amount of Rs. 58.50 crore has been provided in the Budget of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for solar energy programmes during 1997-98. A part of this budget is used to provide grants to states towards promotional activities. However, state-wise financial allocations have not been made.

Diversion of Central Funds allocated for Rural Development

*37. SHRI SIBU SOREN :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large sum of Central funds allotted for various rural development programmes have been diverted for other purposes in West Bengal;